

NEWS BRIEFS

First Friday Social

The African American Heritage Committee holds the First Friday Social today at 4 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Come out for free food and drinks, music and door prizes. There will also be a special presentation to The Barksdale Cheerleaders. Contact 2dLt. Maclin Williams at 456-2869 for information.

Free Mother's Day concert

The Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band holds a free Mother's Day Concert Sunday at Louisiana State University's university theater at 3 p.m. The concert will feature Broadway showstoppers like "Oklahoma," "Chicago," "Miss Saigon," "Mary Poppins," and "Over the Rainbow."

Re-Blue conference

The 340th Weapons Squadron holds a Re-Blue conference May 25 and 26. All B-52 weapons school graduates may attend. The conference is to provide up-to-date information to all graduates on a wide range of topics. Current briefs include program status on a number of new weapons, and updates on the WPS syllabus. Call Maj. Bill Winans at DSN 781-3629 if interested in briefing at the conference.

Special Olympics run

The Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run is May 14 at 6:45 a.m. Participants will meet at the Bossier City Civic Center parking lot and run from there to the Shreveport Court House. The \$15 registration fee covers the cost of one shirt, lapel pin, and insurance. It is not a donation to the Special Olympics Louisiana.

Contact Staff Sgt. Andrew Fletcher at 456-1697, Staff Sgt. J'Valyn Vaughn at 456-3508, or Senior Airman Elisha Pearon at 456-4270 to get registered. The deadline to register is by close of business today.

ALS drill activities

Class 04-E begins Wednesday. Students should report to the ALS auditorium no later than 7:20 a.m. Uniform of the day will be any blues combination. There is also a spouse's orientation the same morning at 7:30 a.m. in the ALS auditorium. Any eligible student may bring their spouse for a briefing about the program.

Reserved parking

Barksdale drivers should be aware that parking in reserved parking can lead to a DD Form 1408, an Armed Forces Traffic ticket by 2d Security Forces Squadron.

Doughet Drive closing

Doughet Drive is permanently closed from south of Burger King to the intersection at Curtiss Road.

Base members earn ACC awards

BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANDREA KNUDSON
OBSERVER

Two members from the 2d Bomb Wing Manpower office recently earned Air Combat Command awards. Tech. Sgt. Alisha Laird and Senior Airman Steven Hemphill were named the 2003 ACC Manpower and Organization Award for Professional Excellence, NCO of the Year, and Airman of the Year, respectively.

The 2d Bomb Wing Manpower and Organization office, or MO, is charged with managing peacetime and wartime manpower requirements and utilization for the wing, and assisting the wing commander with manpower resource issues such as authorization moves, corrections and mission-related changes.

The annual award recognizes significant job performance, contribution to mission effectiveness, leadership and management ability and significant self improvement, said Sgt. Laird, 2d BW's Manpower training and special projects branch NCO in charge, who added she couldn't have done it without her fellow co-workers.

"Awards like this cannot be won without a strong team working along side you," said Sgt. Laird a master sergeant select and responsible for training all new

retrainees and office interns, managing wing resources and performing superintendent duties as needed. "There are so many other members doing exceptional work; I'm blessed to have been recognized among them. Winning made me feel great, but I felt humbled because I was just doing my job to the best of my ability."

Senior Airman Stephen Hemphill, a manpower analyst, shares the same feeling regarding the importance of teamwork.

"The outstanding mentorship I've received from the 2d BW MO office made it possible for me to succeed," said Amn. Hemphill, who is tasked with processing authorization change requests and notices, sending out unit manpower documents; a computer product listing unit manpower authorizations, and assisting with unit deployment managers for Air and Space Expeditionary Force mission requirements and wartime operations planning. "The best part is that my supervisor thought I was doing a great job and put me up for the award."

Sergeant Laird, a Baltimore native, has been in the Air Force for 17 years and believes recognition such as award programs are essential to NCO and Airmen professional development, but shouldn't be re-

served for specific times of the year or certain occasions.

"Recognition is extremely important," Sgt. Laird said. "Awards are great for recognition, but we should also be providing our personnel with positive recognition through other means when they deserve it."

As an Airman who enlisted in the Air Force five years ago from his home state of Alabama, Amn. Hemphill appreciates that the contributions of Airmen to the Air Force and its mission are highlighted.

"It lets you know that hard work doesn't go unnoticed," said Amn. Hemphill, who tested for staff sergeant Monday and would like to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

Sergeant Laird hopes to complete her bachelor's degree in human resource management, but will be looking out for someone else's future, too.

"One of my goals is to provide my daughter with the tools she needs to grow up to be a well-balanced, strong and productive woman," said Sgt. Laird, who said the best part of winning this award is the entire squadron receives attention.

"Knowing this award has not only recognized me, but the 2d Bomb Wing as well for their outstanding accomplishment is the best part," Sgt. Laird said.

Open Ranks



Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Forbrich, chief enlisted manager, 2d Civil Engineer Squadron, conducts a pre-open ranks in-

spection as part of the squadron's monthly inspection by their commander, Lt. Col. Steven Hammock.

Master Sgt. Michael Kaplan/2d Communications Squadron